

# Albania Program Summary

Albania's second, or Stage II, MCC threshold program builds upon the significant success of the first program and looks to institutionalize key reforms in public administration and judicial capacity building and to support anticorruption activities. The original threshold program focused on reforming public procurement, streamlining business registration procedures, and strengthening the Tirana Tax Department to promote fiscal transparency and accountability.

## *Program Highlights*

### Administrative Courts

- ★ Albania's MCC Threshold Program organized an impressive business lobby to campaign for the passage of the law creating the administrative courts.

### Tax Administration

- ★ The General Directorate of Taxation has implemented risk-based selection for audits. Regional tax offices can no longer select a taxpayer to be audited without headquarters' approval, reducing opportunities for abuse by auditors.
- ★ Electronic filing for tax declarations was upgraded to include late filings and can accommodate new small business tax requirements.
- ★ The project developed standard operating procedures for the Investigation Directorate that permit audit inspectors to refer potential fraudulent returns for criminal investigation. Citizens can also denounce evasion or improper tax employee behavior through a toll-free hotline, public use form and the webpage.

### Business Licensing

- ★ The National Licensing Center, a one-stop shop for business licenses, was opened ahead of schedule on June 9, 2009. In conjunction with the opening, Albania's MCC Threshold Program helped launch a web portal and a communications campaign to educate the public about application procedures and time savings.

For a copy of Albania's Threshold Program final report, please contact us at [info@mcc.gov](mailto:info@mcc.gov)

#### Stage II Threshold Program Status

Status.....Implementation, Year 1

#### Stage II Threshold Program Information

Total Amount.....\$15.7 million

Agreement Signed.....October 12, 2008

#### Country Information

Population.....3,129,678\*

GNI Per Capita Income.....\$2,580